

Specification Amendments

Deletions Double Bracketed (5 words or less) and/or Strikeout - Additions Underlined

Please amend paragraph [30.00] of the Specification as indicated below.

[30.00] (Currently Amended) Preferably, the [[ceramic layer 13]] ceramic layer 17 is bonded to the metallic base material 16 by molecular adhesion. For that purpose, the illustrated ceramic layer 17 is formed on the metallic base material 16 by a known micro-arc oxidation process. The base material 16 is immersed in an electrolytic bath (water and highly dilute electrolyte) after which an electric current is applied to generate a series of micro-arcs on the surface of the object that result in oxidation by micro-arcs. The micro-arcs pierce the layer of hydrated oxides covering the object, and the holes produced are then filled by the formation of a hard, ceramic-type oxide (the ceramic layer 17) which, in the case of aluminum, is composed mainly of crystalline aluminum (i.e., alumina).